

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A front light includes: a light source 102, a light guide plate 101, and a plurality of prism-shaped lenses 106 each being in contact with a lower surface of the light guide plate 101. A cross-section of each of the prism-shaped lenses, in a plane perpendicular to the side surfaces thereof, has a shape of equally-sided trapezoid. An obtuse angle  $\phi_{out}$  of the equally-sided trapezoidal cross-section and a critical angle  $\theta_c$  for the total reflection of the prism-shaped lenses satisfy the relationship of  $90^\circ < \phi_{out} \leq 90^\circ + \theta_c$ . When the light emitted from the light source 102 enters the prism-shaped lens 106, the light is allowed to be reflected at a side surface defined by side-edges of the trapezoidal cross-section and thereafter exit through a lower surface 106b. Thus, the light can illuminate pixel electrodes in a liquid crystal panel from a direction normal thereto. Thus, light utilization efficiency of the front light can be improved.

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